

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MARCH 1986

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad denied responsibility for kidnapping the French television crew in Beirut, stating in a note to a Western news agency that the kidnappers had falsely used the Jihad's name and were misrepresenting its position, AFP reported. However, the note reaffirmed the Jihad's claim to have executed French researcher Michel Seurat and it was accompanied by photographs apparently showing Seurat's body. The note said that all future Jihad communiques will be accompanied by pictures of one of the Jihad's hostages, whose life will depend on "the speed of the French Government in satisfying our demands."

As for mediation efforts, French emissary Razzah Ra'd began talks with Seurat's kidnappers 11 March, Paris radio reported, noting that Ra'd is seeking to discover if Seurat has indeed been executed. AFP noted earlier that Iran turned down France's request to allow a French envoy to visit Tehran in connection with the hostages in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri denounced the kidnapping of the French television crew in a statement reported by Beirut radio, calling for the immediate release of the four Frenchmen.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit two "large maritime targets" 9-10 March and attacked a "very large maritime target" 11 March, according to Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Saudi Arabia

Despite oil price reductions, lowered Saudi oil production, and "repercussions" from other factors, Saudi Arabia will maintain all its domestic programs designed to "safeguard the citizen's prosperity," King Fahd announced in a speech to the Cabinet and nation reported by SPA. Riyadh radio subsequently reported that the cabinet decided to keep the present budget in force and reassess the situation "in the next 5 months."

Pakistan

Five Ghanaians and a Pakistani were arrested in connection with an alleged "foreign-inspired terrorist network," AFP reported citing Karachi police sources. A Libyan commercial official is also being held for questioning amid suspicions that he provided funds to antigovernment terrorist groups in Pakistan, AFP added, citing Pakistani press reports.

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Foreign Ministry Protests Abdul Haq's Visit to UK*LD091734 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari**1530 GMT 9 Mar 86*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the British Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1430 today and a responsible official handed him the following protest note:

According to statements by the British official authorities and by a professional Afghan counterrevolutionary murderer, Abdul Haq is now visiting Britain at the official invitation of that country's government. These statements indicate that prominent political personalities such as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will receive him as an outstanding figure of the so-called resistance movement and as a guest of the British Government.

During his meetings and visits, Lady Young, minister of state in the British Foreign Office, heard a report by this criminal agent on 3 March concerning the internal situation of the DRA and, on behalf of her government, she expressed the support of the British Government for the so-called courageous struggle of the people of Afghanistan against the Soviet occupiers.

In this way the British Government welcomes a murderer whose filthy hands are stained with the blood of hundreds of our noble and toiling compatriots. The open confessions of this lunatic lackey of imperialism and reaction in connection with the explosion of a bomb at Kabul International Airport and firing rockets at residential areas, which resulted in the deaths of dozens of innocent people including children, women, and old people and which were reported by England's mass media, undeniably proves the (extent) of his criminality and inhumane deeds.

Welcoming such a notorious terrorist and obtaining information from him on the domestic situation in the DRA, and the hostile statements by the official British authorities concerning our revolutionary and free country and its international friends — headed by the Soviet Union — which are extending their humanitarian and internationalist assistance to our people in building a new and democratic society, is open interference in the internal affairs of the DRA and is an open violation of the norms of international custom and diplomatic relations between the two countries. It also fully reveals the provocative measures and actions of the British official authorities and the hostile policy of that country which, in collaboration with its close allies such as the United States and other imperialist and reactionary countries, tries to intensify and continue the undeclared bloody war against the people and Government of the DRA.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemns these interventionist measures and provocations of the official British authorities and lodges protest against them. The DRA believes that the continuation of such a hostile policy by Britain against the DRA is not in the interest of maintaining peace and security in our region and the world and will not improve the existing

relations between the two countries. Therefore, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs seriously demands that the government of that country should cease its provocative actions and measures against the DRA. Responsibility for the undesirable consequences arising from them rests with the British Government.

Pakistani Claim of 28 Feb Shelling Rejected*LD091619 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto**1530 GMT 9 Mar 86*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1000 today, and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Section:

The Pakistani Government, in line with its groundless and empty accusations against the DRA, has once again claimed that on 28 February the DRA border guards fired 15 artillery shots in the north of Khyber Agency.

After comprehensive assessment, the DRA Government considers this claim to be far from the truth, and resolutely rejects it. It further states that the Pakistani authorities should stop such accusations, which do nothing but aggravate the situation on the border.

UN Special Envoy Meets Foreign Minister Dost*LD101625 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto**1530 GMT 10 Mar 86*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met Diego Cordovez, the assistant to UN secretary general, this afternoon at 1600 in his office.

Then in the presence of Sarwar Yuresh and a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and Diego Cordovez' accompanying delegation, the foreign affairs minister held talks with the UN secretary general's assistant at the ministry's headquarters. He spoke on the continuation of his mission regarding the search for a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan and on the process of the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan.

According to another report, Diego Cordovez and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kabul from Islamabad at 1500 today, in continuation of his regional tour, to hold talks with the DRA authorities and to exchange views.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Foreign Affairs Minister Vice Minister Sarwar Yuresh; adviser Sakhi Daneshjo; the vice head of that ministry's Protocol Section; and also by the head of the UN development program, Samendo Banerjee.

Gandhi Discusses Measures To Contain Insurgency*BK090333 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Mar 86*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said a series of measures are being worked out by the center to contain insurgency in some parts of the northeastern region. He was talking to newsmen at the Itanagar helipad before his departure for Towang this morning.

Referring to the Mizo problem, Mr Gandhi said talks with the Mizo leader, Mr Laldenga, will be resumed soon. He said Mr Laldenga is expected to be in Delhi this month for this purpose. Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his wife, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, were given a warm send-off when they left Itanagar after a night's stay.

Further on Imposition of Governor's Rule in Kashmir**Minister Makes Statement***BK101033 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Mar 86*

[Text] The Lok Sabha was officially informed today about the imposition of governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir following the political developments in the state. The minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao, said in a statement that the president received a report from the governor on Friday stating that the G.M. Shah government has been reduced to an utter minority. The governor also conveyed his assessment that law and order and security of the state was under serious threat. This was further compounded by the grave political instability. In these circumstances, the governor reported that a situation had arisen in which the governor [as heard] of the state could not be carried on in accordance with the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. The statement was made by Mr Narasimha Rao in the absence of the home minister.

Earlier, during zero-hour, Mr Saifuddin of National Conference welcomed the imposition of the governor's rule but demanded that the assembly should be dissolved immediately. He also wanted a commission of inquiry into alleged corruption by the former ministry.

Governor on Administration*BK101628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Mar 86*

[Text] The Rajasthan chief secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra, and the Madhya Pradesh inspector general of police, Mr G.M. Quereshi, have been appointed as advisers to the Jammu and Kashmir governor. Disclosing this at a press conference in Jammu this evening, the state governor, Mr Jagmohan, also announced supersession of nominated panchayats [village councils] all over the state. Giving details of other steps taken to provide efficient and clean administration to the people, Mr Jagmohan said that statutory subordinate services selection board and state security advisory board will be set up. Referring to the law and order situation in the state, Mr Jagmohan said that normalcy is fast returning. He said that further relaxation

of curfew in Srinagar will be from 0500 in the morning till 2300 in the night instead of 0600 to 2100.

Sikh Student Wing Splits With Militant Akali Faction*HK101448 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 10 Mar 86*

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 10 (AFP) — Sikh militants campaigning for a separate homeland here suffered a jolt over the weekend when their students' wing formally split off from the main militant faction, group leaders said Monday.

The All India Sikh Students' Federation, led by Harinder Singh Kahlon, snapped ties on Saturday with the United Akali Dal, the militant faction of the moderate Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

No official reason was given for the split, but informed sources said the students differed with United Akali Dal leaders on the hierarchy of the militant Sikh faction.

The students' federation had earlier pledged its support to a five-member committee formed on January 26 which it said should carry ultimate authority over Sikh political and religious matters.

In a resolution passed Saturday, the federation said it would not maintain relations with organisations which did not consider the committee supreme.

The United Akali Dal is formally led by Baba Joginder Singh, and has yet to announce its total pledge to the five-member committee.

Meanwhile, a group of federation members said Mr Kahlon had no legal right to decide the policies of the federation as both the group's president and general [title as received] were in jail.

Police Attempt To Stop Tibetan Protest at PRC Embassy*HK101456 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 10 Mar 86*

[Text] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP) — The police here rounded up hundreds of Tibetan refugees on Monday in an attempt to stop a major Tibetan demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy, police sources said, provoking accusations of brutality.

The sources said officers had swooped on one group of Tibetans near New Delhi's diplomatic quarter and had herded them into buses.

Later, as other enraged Tibetans squatted at a police barricade and chanted anti-Chinese and anti-police slogans, officers went to a Tibetan camp in the north of the capital and confiscated or immobilised buses that were to take another 1,500 Tibetans to the Chinese Embassy, the sources said.

A spokesman for the refugees, Karmachokhey said the police had used "brute force" against the refugees and had thrown them into police vans "if we were animals." [as received]

Miss Karmachokhey said two policemen had brutally assaulted her and her associate Sovam Dolma after tearing their clothes.

Both women sat down in protest at another barricade and shouted Anti-Indian slogans. Elderly Tibetan women sat with them and wept.

As a two-member delegation from the Tibetan Youth Congress pasted a memorandum on the locked gates of the embassy, the police stopped taxis and city buses and dragged out Tibetan youths by their feet or hair and dumped them in vans.

"It was a horrible experience," said a Tibetan tourist from Singapore who said he had been dragged out of a limousine.

The Tibetan Youth Congress had called the demonstration to coincide with the 27th anniversary of an uprising against the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

The entire diplomatic area was cordoned off on Monday and the Chinese Embassy was ringed with armed security guards and paramilitary forces.

Area police chief B.K. Gupta said at least 110 Tibetans, including 30 women, had been arrested and charged with breaches of public order near New Delhi's diplomatic quarter.

He said Tibetan refugees living in camps and hostels were not being allowed to leave the premises and join the demonstration.

He said that over 500 policemen and officers had been posted at the main barricades surrounding the diplomatic area.

The police said the arrested refugees would be released soon.

Hindu Congress-I Member Wounded in Punjab Shooting *HK110702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 11 Mar 86*

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded a Hindu member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Punjab Monday, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA news agency said.

Two men opened fire on Congress member Mangat Ram, 55, outside his home in the village of Raichak.

Local doctors had declared him dead, but hospital doctors later said he was alive and critically injured, UNI reported.

In another incident, unidentified men shot and wounded a Hindu palmreader, Pandit Ayodhya Prasad, 52, near Ludhiana, the agency said.

UNI did not link the shootings to the Sikh autonomy campaign in the state, but observers said the pattern of the crimes suggested involvement of Sikh militants.

A section of India's 16 million Sikhs are campaigning for autonomy in Punjab.

'Extremists' Storm Village, Kill 4 in Tripura

BK110905 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In Tripura, four persons were killed and four others seriously injured when a group of extremists stormed Data Ram Bari village in south district last night. About 40 shops were burned down after they looted cash and valuables at gunpoint. An adjacent village of Akrampara was also set on fire by the extremists. The injured have been admitted to hospital. Police officials have rushed to the spot to control the situation.

Editorial on U.S., PRC Military Aid to Pakistan

BK071504 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English
25 Feb 86 p 5

[Editorial: "New Axis"]

[Text] Pakistan's finance minister Mian Mohammed Yasin Khan Wattoo is in Washington for talks on a new deal to supplement the current five-year package valued at \$3.2 billion for economic and military aid in 1979 [year as published]. Former finance minister Mabbubul Haq had earlier indicated that Islamabad wanted \$6.5 billion during the next five years. There are enough indications that the U.S. would grant this aid. In the first week of February the Reagan administration asked for increased funds for Pakistan and South Korea in a foreign aid budget for fiscal 1987 submitted to Congress. The request called for \$666.4 million for Pakistan (\$341.4 million for military aid and \$325 million economic) also raising the total for the current fiscal year ending September 30 to \$628.6 million. This enhanced aid is to achieve 'foreign policy objectives' of the U.S. But reading between the lines, it is obvious that it is meant to put pressure on Pakistan's immediate neighbourhood, India, to divert its economic resources to unproductive ventures, besides, creating a fear psychosis between neighbours.

The American military aid is in addition to what Pakistan has received from China. Of the items that have been obtained from China hardware has been secured "gratis". This legitimately raises the question that a new military axis is in the offing. If so, India cannot be expected to be a passive onlooker of events.

UN Special Envoy Interviewed on Afghanistan Talks*HK101148 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 10 Mar 86**[By Dmitri Kochko]*

[Text] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP) — The U.N. special envoy on the Afghan problem, Diego Cordovez, left here for Kabul on Monday in another bid to bring the Afghan Government and Pakistan to discuss the major outstanding disagreement over Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Before leaving for the Afghan capital, Mr. Cordovez told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview that "a compromise formula" should be sought to unlock "very difficult negotiations".

Mr. Cordovez is trying to set up a seventh session of the indirect proximity talks between the two neighbours for the end of this month or early April in Geneva.

The talks began in 1982, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, but the last session ended abruptly before the start of this year in disagreement over the format of future negotiations.

Mr. Cordovez said there was "big distrust" between Pakistan and Afghanistan and that each side thought "the other was trying to trap it".

He believed a military solution was not possible, but a political solution was and was asking both sides to pursue talks about the withdrawal of Soviet troops, known in diplomatic jargon as the fourth instrument.

Previous rounds of talks had largely settled the questions of non-interference in each other's affairs, international guarantees on agreements and the voluntary return to Afghanistan of about four million Afghans who have fled to Pakistan. "I am asking both to go on with negotiations on the fourth instrument," he said.

But Kabul and Islamabad "must show sincerity and determination".

"Both are aware of the importance of settling the problem and I hope we can find a compromise formula," he said.

Kabul is prepared to discuss directly with Islamabad the withdrawal of Soviet troops, but Pakistan, which estimates some 150,000 Soviets troops are in Afghanistan, has rejected direct talks as recognition of a "puppet regime" manipulated by Moscow. Mr. Cordovez said his search for a compromise should be made easier now doubt had been removed about a withdrawal timetable. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that a timetable exists for the Red Army to pull out once the conditions are deemed right.

"He was not obliged to commit himself so clearly," Mr. Cordovez said.

The U.N. mediator is due back here in "two or three days". He arrived here on Saturday and has had talks with the Pakistani authorities.

6 Arrested for Participation in 'Terrorist Network'*NC102004 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 10 Mar 86*

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 10 (AFP) — Six suspected terrorists, five Ghanaians and a Pakistani have been arrested in connection with an alleged foreign-inspired terrorist network in the country, police sources said here Monday.

Ahmad Muhammad 'Ammar, Libyan deputy managing director of the Pakistan-Libya joint holding company, whose offices were fire-bombed on February 9, and who himself "kidnapped" a week later and subsequently "recovered", is also understood to be under arrest. [sentence as received] Local press reports, not confirmed by police, said Mr. 'Ammar was allegedly working for the Libyan intelligence services, and is suspected to have maintained links and provided funds to anti-government terrorist groups in Pakistan. He has not been allowed to meet newsmen since his kidnapping and subsequent recovery. The police sources said the other arrests were as a result of questioning him, and all those arrested had now been moved to Islamabad for further interrogation by the federal police.

There have been a number of bomb explosions and multiple murders in different parts of the country in recent months.

Meanwhile, police sources said the Iraqi consul-general's car was the target of an unsuccessful time-bomb attempt yesterday. The bomb fell off as the car moved and exploded on the road, causing no damage. The Iraqi consulate sources refused to comment or confirm whether the consul-general was in the car at the time. Police have not made any arrest but generally suspect an Iranian hand in the incident.

Election Commission Registers Political Parties*BK091029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Mar 86*

[Text] The Election Commission has ordered the registration of three more political parties. They are: Pakistan Christian National Party, Pakistan Ittehad Therik, and Pakistan National League.

People's Party Rejected*BK081606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Mar 86*

[Text] Four more political parties were registered at a meeting of the Election Commission in Karachi today. The parties are Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan led by Mr Shan Ahmed Noorani, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam led by Maulana Abdullah Darkhasti, Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith led by Maulana Muenuddin Lakhwi and Al-Mashraqi Khaksar Tehriq led by Hafiz Manzoor Elahi.

An application by a political party in the name of People's Party of Pakistan was rejected by the commission because it does not fulfil legal requirements of the Political Parties Act. This party is led by Dr Arshad Islam.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat presided over the meeting and the commission members Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tariq and Justice Syed Alai Madad Shah attended the meeting.

Musawat Party Leader on Need for Nuclear 'Device'

GF101142 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Mar 86 p 2

[DAWN correspondent report]

[Text] Gujranwala, March 3: Mr Hanif Ramay, chief of Pakistan Musawat Party, while addressing the district bar here on Monday said that it had become imperative for Pakistan now to build a nuclear device. It was the only way to persuade India to develop friendly relations with Pakistan, he added.

He said that those who think that Islam is not an essential philosophy for Pakistan, are living in a fools' paradise. He deplored that provincialism and parochialism had reached the climax in Pakistan. He referred to the Jamshoro University kidnappings and abductions in the connection. Rebutting the claim that parliamentary democracy had been restored in Pakistan, he said, if that was so, how come the president in his capacity as chief of the Army Staff, subservient to the prime minister, while the premier himself could be sacked and the National Assembly could be dissolved by the president.

The chief of the Musawat Party dismissed the concept of confederation and said that it was a martial law product. He strongly condemned feudalism and said that living conditions of the downtrodden could not be improved unless the feudal lords and generals were eliminated from politics.

Editorial on Chances of U.S. Aid in War With India

GF101326 Lahore JANG in Urdu 5 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid in Case of War"]

[Text] The distinguished leader of the MRD and the well-known politician Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan has said that it is meaningless to expect U.S. aid in any Pakistan-India war. In an interview with JANG he referred to the statement by a parliamentary secretary who was responding to an adjournment motion in the National Assembly. The secretary said that under the terms of the 1959 agreement the United States was committed to come to the aid of Pakistan if there were a war.

As far as the question of American aid in the event of foreign aggression against Pakistan is concerned, we have already seen the American attitude during the war of 1965 and 1971. The United States has never honored its commitments and promises to weak countries, especially to the Islamic countries. Pakistan in particular has already tasted the bitter and unforgettable experience of the U.S. attitude. It would be a national suicide to

place our trust again on such imaginary expectations. The situation has not changed. Even now the United States is not prepared to accept Pakistan's peaceful atomic program. Despite assurances offered at the highest level, the Americans continue to express doubts and misgivings regarding Pakistan. It was the United States which put pressure on France to cancel the sale of the atomic reprocessing plant to Pakistan and even today the United States is doing its best to oppose the Pakistani nuclear program. On the other hand, the United States is not only supplying India with the latest defense system computers, but is also not objecting to India's atomic programs. In fact, India is being encouraged by the United States. Similarly, the Israeli and the South African atomic programs have been completed through American support and aid.

The United States stopped its military aid to Pakistan during the 1965 war. The restoration of economic and military aid to Pakistan after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is, in fact, to safeguard American interests in the region. If the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not posed any threat to the American interests, the United States would never have gone to the aid of Pakistan. The hollowness of the 1959 agreement was fully proved in the 1965 and 1971 wars. The process of giving foolish assurances to the nation on the bases of these agreements should stop now. We must bear in mind the facts toward which allusions have been made by several national leaders — that we must fight our battles ourselves. We will have to safeguard our interests ourselves. The United States will never come to our aid. This is a fact, not a supposition. Our rulers should base their future policies on this reality. We should think of ways to save the nation from the mirage of American aid. The secret of our existence and well-being is hidden in this reality.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Soviet-Karmal Forces

'Suprise' Attack in Ghazni

BK100240 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin caused heavy losses to Soviet-Karmal forces in Faryab Province recently. The mujahidin carried out a surprise attack on Soviet-Karmal forces near (Askarkot) in Ghazni Province, killing 11 Soviet soldiers.

Base 'Destroyed' in Herat

BK100626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that mujahidin destroyed a base of the Karmal forces in Herat on Thursday [6 March] and captured three security posts. According to a report, 11 soldiers, including the commander of the base, were killed and about 40 or 50 captured.

Another report says 70 Karmal soldiers assigned to 6 security posts in Herat defected to the mujahidin.

NEPAL

Banned Communist Party Plans To Contest Elections
HK090136 Hong Kong AFP in English 0122 GMT 9 Mar 86

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 9 (AFP) — The banned pro-Soviet Nepal Communist Party has decided to contest the elections for the country's partyless parliament slated for May, a party source has said.

Two other outlawed opposition parties, the Nepali Congress and the pro-China Communist Party, have said they plan to boycott the May 12 elections for the National Panchayat (parliament) to press demands for revival of the multi-party system and for major constitutional changes.

But leaders of the three factions of the pro-Soviet party have decided to field 36 candidates in the election, which is to choose 112 of the 140 members of the National Panchayat.

The king appoints the other members.

After six months of popular unrest in 1979, the king held a national referendum offering a choice between the partyless panchayat system and Western-style democracy, a contest won by supporters of the partyless system.

Observers said there had been serious differences of opinion among leaders of the Nepali Congress, with party General Secretary Girija Prasad Koirala among the minority wishing to contest the election.

Two other leaders, including the president of the banned party, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, are determined to boycott the polls unless the king introduces major changes in the constitution and an interim government is constituted to ensure a "free, fair and peaceful" election.

An interim government is likely to be constituted around April 12 when members' five-year terms of office in the National Panchayat expire.

In the interim government all controversial ministers are to be dismissed and neutral ministers are to be picked, mostly from among the king's 28 nominees, to ensure impartiality in the election, a highly placed panchayat source said.

Meanwhile in a written statement, Krishna Raj Verma, general secretary of pro-Soviet Communist Party, described the forthcoming general election as an "historic event" which he believed would provide an opportunity for all people to exercise their democratic right to elect representatives to the national legislature through universal franchise.

Mr. Verma added that only the "conscious and vigilant public and their understanding" could ensure a free and fair election.

Mass participation in the election will deprive those who resort to voting malpractices of victory in the election, he said.

SRI LANKA

India Responds to Colombo Statement on Bhagat Remarks
BK081109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The Indian response to Colombo's reply to External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat's recent parliamentary statement had been handed on Thursday to High Commissioner Bernard Tillakaratne in New Delhi, according to All India Radio. The text of the statement, which Indian official said was constructive, has not been released.

Colombo said the Indian paper needed intensive study. High Commissioner J.N. Dixit, Delhi's envoy here who was in the Indian capital for consultations with his government for the past several days, is due in Colombo today.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tillakaratne, will arrive in Colombo today for consultations with the government.

Indian Envoy Meets President

BK101156 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] President Jayewardene yesterday had an hour-long meeting with the Indian High Commissioner, J.N. Dixit, who said he had conveyed the assessment and anxieties of the prime minister of India about the current status of the national question. Mr. Dixit said the president, who had been good enough to grant him an immediate appointment following his return from New Delhi on Saturday, had given him a patient hearing. In addition to giving Colombo's response to the matters immediately on hand, the president had also told the high commissioner that a formal response would be conveyed to the government through High Commissioner Bernard Tillakaratne, who is now in town.

Asked about the prospects of a visit to Colombo by Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari, Mr. Dixit said President Jayewardene had told him that the original invitation stood and Mr. Bhandari was free to come whenever he wished. The high commissioner said he had no idea about dates for such a visit.

Meanwhile, a text of India's response to a statement by Colombo which protested against certain allegations made by the Indian external affairs minister, B. R. Bhagat, has been made public. The statement conveys India's dismay and regret over the tenor of the note sent by Sri Lanka. It said the Government of India has traditionally close and cordial ties with Sri Lanka and has been exerting itself tirelessly to assist in bringing about a political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The Government of India has pointed out that the present attitudes and policies of the Sri Lanka Government would only mean the prolongation of the agony and a deepening of the tragedy faced by Sri Lanka and its people.

With regard to the cancellation of the Indian participation in the Asia Cup cricket tournament, which begins in Sri Lanka on the 30th of this month, there have been no new developments.

Minister Asks 'Terrorists' To Find Solution

*BK091149 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 9 Mar 86*

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the government is prepared to stop the bombing of the terrorist camps in the north if the terrorists abandon the smuggling of weapons and trained persons from south India into Sri Lanka. He said that this proposal has been placed before the terrorists in effort to prevent the killing of people and to safeguard innocent lives as far as possible in accordance with the Buddhist teaching.

The minister observed that not every Tamil is a terrorist and stressed that the government should win over the confidence of Tamil population. Mr Athulathmudali added that the terrorists themselves have conceded they have no place in the [words indistinct] by them. The minister expressed the hope that [words indistinct] the situation which prevail in the Jaffna peninsula as well. He added the time has now come for us to act with prudence without being swayed by external events.

The minister has called on the terrorists to come forward to find a political solution to the ethnic problem.

Tamil Refugees Start Returning Home From India

*BK081119 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 8 Mar 86*

[Text] For the first time in months groups of Tamil refugees have started returning to Sri Lanka from southern India because of bad conditions in the camps and adverse climate. The *HINDUSTAN TIMES* newspaper said yesterday that official apathy, inadequate allowances, poor medical facilities, harassment, and looting of their belongings, and the extremely hot climate prompted the fugitives to return to Sri Lanka.

Security Forces' Clashes With Terrorists Detailed

*BK071101 Colombo International Service in English
0300 GMT 7 Mar 86*

[Text] A gang of five Marxist terrorists, three of them armed with machineguns, robbed rails from the Jaffna railway yesterday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that three other terrorists were captured by the security forces at Periankulam-Vavuniya yesterday.

Three terrorists were killed when security forces effectively repulsed an attack at (Alikamalli) in Batticaloa. On Wednesday night, the Navy intercepted a boat about 6 miles away from Kankesanthurai in the north and, when challenged, the occupants of the boat fired at the Navy vessel. The fire was returned and the entire boat caught fire and was destroyed. According to LANKA PUWATH it is believed that this boat was carrying terrorists from the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] group.

Russian-Made Hand Grenade Seized

*BK081115 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 8 Mar 86*

[Text] Security forces captured a Russian-made hand grenade during a raid on a terrorist gang base in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday morning. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the raid on the home of the leader of the self-styled Marxist organization led by Uma Maheshwaran, the People's Liberation of Tamil Eelam, also resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of terrorist misinformation against the Government of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the self-proclaimed Marxist theoretician of the Liberation Tigers, (Anton Balasingham), has boasted in the *GUARDIAN* of London in an interview earlier this week that the Marxist terrorists would use Soviet SAM missiles to fight Sri Lanka Air Force aircraft.

Tamil Militants Attack Irrigation Colony, Kill 8

HK101542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 10 (AFP) — Tamil militant separatists Monday shot dead eight farm workers and seriously injured three others in an attack on a state-run irrigation colony in the Eastern Province, security sources said.

The sources said that the attack took place at Morawewa in the province's northeastern district of Trincomalee.

They said that the militants, armed with shotguns and rifles, attacked a group of farm hands who were working in paddy fields, killing eight and seriously injuring three others.

The sources said that the attack was part of a Tamil militant campaign to frighten away Sinhalese and Moslem civilians from the Eastern Province which they want incorporated into the Northern Province as a Tamil homeland.

Khomeyni Meets With Families of POW's, MIA's, Dead
LD101353 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran Imam Khomeyni received relatives of martyrs, POW's and those missing in action as well as some Majlis deputies from Bakhtaran and Khorasan Provinces here Monday.

At the meeting the head of the Shahid (Martyr) Foundation Hojjat ol-Islam Mahdi Karrubi who is also the Majlis vice speaker made a speech lauding the devotion of Iranian Muslim combatants in the war fronts.

Further on Romanian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets Energy Minister

LD101029 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The Romanian foreign minister, Ilie Vaduva, currently here heading a political-economic delegation, met and conferred with Minister of Energy Mohammad Taki Banki, here Monday morning.

During the meeting issues relevant to technical and economic cooperation between the two countries mainly in the field of water and electricity were discussed.

The Iranian minister also held talks with the Romanian official on the speedy completion of Iranian projects under implementation by Romanian contractors.

The Romanian foreign minister said that his government had decided to increase its financial assistance to Romanian contractors working in Iran to compensate the delay in the completion of the projects.

To this end, Vaduva said, the new energy minister of Romania is interested in visiting projects under implementation by the Romanian contractors in Iran.

Confers With Musavi

LD101224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs this morning met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi. Also present at the meeting were the foreign minister and prime minister's political deputy. During the meeting, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs conveyed his government's desire for an comprehensive expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and extended to the prime minister an invitation from Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu to visit that country. He also briefed the prime minister on the progress of his talks in Iran on political and economic issues.

The prime minister thanked the envoy for the invitation and expressed the hope to visit Romania when the opportunity presents itself. The prime minister emphasized the fundamental

principles of our country's foreign policy. He said that Iran's volume of trade after the victory of the Islamic Revolution changed in favor of the Third World countries, adding that Iran will continue this same policy. Referring to the imposed war, the prime minister said that a genuine peace is only possible through the punishment of the aggressor since we intend to remain independent in a sensitive region; therefore, we must uproot aggression.

Meets With Plan, Budget Minister

LD101616 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Ilie Vaduva met and conferred with Plan and Budget Minister Masud Raghani-Zanjani here Monday.

In the meeting Zanjani said since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has pursued a policy expanding her relations with anti-imperialist countries. "We like to continue such a policy", he added.

Zanjani said the reason why Iraqi war was imposed on Iran is that the Islamic Republic has adopted independent and anti-aggression policies.

The Romanian minister also expressed his country's interest to promote economic and commercial relations with Iran. He furthermore invited Zanjani to visit Romania.

Romania is the second biggest commercial partner of the Islamic Republic in Eastern Europe. It exports industrial, agricultural machinery, paper, cardboard and chemical materials to Iran and imports oil in return.

Montazeri Meets With Velayati, Envoys 9 Mar

LD101303 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and our country's ambassadors and charge d'affaires to Asian and Oceanian countries yesterday. He thanked them for suffering the pain of being outside their homeland in such sensitive circumstances and for carrying out their various duties abroad.

He added: In the present conditions, although Islam and the revolution's main enemies are the superpowers — the former U.S. President has clearly admitted that today Islam stands in the way of U.S. interests in the world and not communism — we are not worried because the situation with regard to the superpowers is clear and the nations know it well. What is both worrisome and unfortunate is the discord among many leaders of Islamic countries who consider themselves Muslims and followers of Islam and the Koran but are practicably dependent upon the superpowers. They cooperate and are of the same mind with the United States, Israel, and all other enemies of Islam so much so that they abjectly agree to participate in the conspiracy to reduce oil prices hatched by Americans and Europeans. This drop in prices basically aims at dealing blows to the revolution

and the great nation of Iran. They sell the oil that belongs to the Muslims and the oppressed, a God-given wealth, at bargain prices. They pour it into the pockets of the superpowers at cheap prices in order to defeat revolutionary Iran.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, addressing the ambassadors and the charge d'affaires, stressed: Wherever you might be, you must attempt to maintain Islam and the revolution's honor by your behavior and your actions. You must neutralize the powerful propaganda against Islam and our country with all your might. You must inform other nations of the internal facts and progress made within our country in a pleasant and lively manner. You must use our youths and committed forces for this purpose.

His Excellency emphasized in conclusion: We must put our prejudices aside. If we recognize that a person is committed to Islam and the revolution and would like to serve, we must make use of him although he might have erred in the past.

Visiting Pakistani Oil Official Meets With Aqazadeh

LD081804 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Pakistan's deputy petroleum and natural resources minister, Ezharul Haq, who is currently here at the head of a delegation met and conferred with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday.

In the meeting Aqazadeh reiterated expansion of bilateral relations and called for a promotion of economic cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation is to discuss purchasing of Iranian oil with the Islamic Republic officials.

Envoy to Tripoli Meets New Libyan Foreign Minister

LD101916 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, March 10, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari met here Monday with Libya's secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Kamil Hasan Mansur and submitted to him a congratulatory message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In the meeting both sides conferred on important issues of the region as well as issues of mutual interest between Tehran and Tripoli.

Mr Mansur expressed thanks for the Islamic Republic's backing for Libya vis-a-vis recent threats of the imperialist U.S.A. saying that the two countries joint and revolutionary goals necessitates constant cooperation as well as exchange of views.

The Libyan official expressed hope that he could visit the Islamic Republic at the first opportunity in order to announce complete backing of his country for the Islamic Republic in the Iraqi-imposed war. He said it was necessary that Iran continues its defensive war till the Baghdad regime is overthrown.

Outgoing Syrian Envoy Meets With Chief Justice

LD082306 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA: Outgoing Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Yunis said here Saturday that Syria will continue to stand by Iran "as we have always voiced our all-out support for the Islamic Republic of Iran."

In a meeting with the chief justice, Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musaviardebili, the departing Syrian ambassador said that Syrian statesmen attached great importance to the expansion of cooperation and friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, the chief justice stressed that Iran and Syria have many issues in common in their fight with the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers issues of Syria as her own", said the chief justice, adding that he was sure that Syria shared the same view.

SAIRI Chairman Condemns GCC Reaction to Victories

GF090625 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Condemning the GCC countries reaction to the recent victories of the Islamic combatants, the SAIRI chairman emphasized that any kind of service to Saddam's regime would be considered a form of animosity and people providing such service would come face to face with the oppressed Iraqi nation; the oppressed people of Iraq would never forget their action and stance.

The SAIRI chairman announced that for the Iraqi mujahidin's participation in liberating their land, a division of Val-Fajr comprised of Iraqi fighting mujahidin and revolutionaries would be established.

Kurds Explode Mines Killing 25 Iraqi Soldiers

LD081650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Citing a report received from reliable sources in northern Iraq, the Central News Unit says: The Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollahi peshmergas, by exploding a few mines across the path of a motorized column of the Iraqi regime's army in the (Binartah) region northeast of Mawsil Province, succeeded in destroying a command (?jeep) and a truck carrying the regime's troops. As a result, 25 troops of the Iraqi ruling regime, including two commanders of the Saddam regime's army, were killed.

'Victim' of Iraqi Chemicals Dies in London

LD090759 Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 9, IRNA — The body of another Islamic combatant victim of Iraqi deployment of chemical weapon was taken to the building of the World Islamic Assembly here in a funeral ceremony attended by a large number of Iranian and

other Muslims, Saturday. The mourners chanted slogans such as 'Death to the U.S.'

Hoseyn Damghani, a 22-year-old Basij member who was injured in Iraqi chemical bombardment of Al-Faw operational theater, was dispatched to Britain for treatment two weeks ago. He died in a London hospital due to the severness of his wounds.

Excerpt for a few number of British media which have printed brief articles on the Iranian combatants injured as a result of Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, the majority of British press have kept silence on this issue.

Even those British publications which have carried reports of the incident have not explicitly mentioned the Iraqi regime as the main engineer of these criminal acts.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Khatam ol-Anbiya' No 22

LD101127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1036 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Communique Number 22 issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the combined headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic Armed Forces, reads as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Continuing their victorious battle against the already vanquished enemy, our forces continue to inflict more blows and heavier casualties upon it. O you brave Islamic nation, O you brave and combative Iranian nation: The criminal enemy has suffered a heavy defeat during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations and has subsequently suffered heavy casualties and irreparable blows as well as great losses to its army, particularly to his special forces and his presidential guards during the past several days. The enemy is resorting to some insane measures that demonstrate the denigration and ever-increasing enfeeblement of that country's rulers.

The cornered Iraqi Navy launched a last-ditch and insane attack last night. This arose from the enfeebled Iraqi officers' lack of military strategy as well as the grave psychological blow to the Baghdad ringleaders. They tried to land some Green Beret units in one ship and several vessels and military launches at the edge of Khawr 'Abdallah. However, they were surrounded by the mighty Islamic forces and, following some intense fighting, all of them were killed.

Moreover, the Islamic combatants during a clash with two enemy battalions north of the salt lake last night succeeded in wiping them out, killing 200 and wounding hundreds of others. During these operations, our forces managed to set ablaze a large quantity of the enemy's equipment, so much so that a great many of the enemy's corpses as well as his equipment have been left behind in the operation zone.

Communique No 2405

LD101739 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Exchange of artillery fire between Iran's Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued in the western fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavier in Nosud and Mehran, it was reported Monday.

The exchanges resulted in at least 10 Iraqi soldiers being killed or wounded and several gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed.

Communique Number 2405 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants dealt fatal blows to Iraqi forces in the northwestern fronts especially in Panjwin where major sections of Iraqi positions were pounded.

The movement of Iraqi infantry and armoured units as well as their trucks carrying troops in the northwestern fronts were checked and shelled by Iranian Muslim troops who also halted enemy engineering operations in the forefronts, according to the communique.

In the southern fronts, the communique said heavy artillery duels continued and Iranian artillery fire silenced the fire of Iraqi tanks in Jofeyr.

The Joint Staff communique said Iranian artillery fire prevented the transport and reinforcement of Iraqi tanks in Kani-Sheykh and elsewhere in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin halted Iraqi soldiers attempting to fortify their positions.

All but one Iraqi aerial attacks on the city of Abadan Sunday were thwarted. The one war plane managed to bombard the city destroying some houses. The city was also shelled by Iraqi forces Sunday.

Peaceful Coexistence With Gulf States Advocated

GF071412 Tehran Television Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 7 Mar 86

[From "The World in a Week" program: "The Good of All Area Countries Lies in Peaceful Coexistence, But Will They Listen?"]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, the Islamic Republic continues to advocate peaceful coexistence in the Persian Gulf as the best guarantee for the consolidation of security and stability and the prevention of interference by foreign states in this important and strategic part of the world.

However, regrettably — very regrettably — the concept of peaceful coexistence has not been met with any positive response by some Gulf countries which continue to insist on their erroneous theory based on the principle of equilibrium between the conflicting axes. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the UAE, and Bahrain met in Riyadh for 3 days within the GCC framework. At the end of the conference the six ministers issued a statement reaffirming their support for the aggressor regime of Iraq. The statement condemned the recent

offensive launched by the Islamic forces, and emphasized military cooperation among the six Gulf states to face possible military developments in the war between the Islamic Republic and the rancorous regime of Baghdad.

Although the statement underlined the issues of peace and stability and the desire of the six Gulf states to play a role in ending the war, the statement did not make any reference to the latest crimes committed by the Saddam regime in shelling civilian areas, downing a civilian aircraft of the Iranian airline company Aseman, or using internationally prohibited chemical bombs. The statement did not say anything new. It is a repetition of past statements and reiterates stands that are 4 years old. The moves of Gulf states on all levels are motivated by one stand: Such a stand stems from the same theory that possessed the minds of Gulf leaders prior to the outbreak of the war and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The theory of Gulf security is based on the creation of a counter force that can face the Islamic revolution and, as a result of the presence of such a force in the Persian Gulf, a balance will be established under which all the Gulf states can live. The protagonists of such a theory are of course U.S. experts who have chosen the Saddam regime as the counter force to the blessed Islamic revolution. Hence the support of the Gulf states for the Saddam regime and their great fear of its defeat in the war — because some Gulf rulers believe that the defeat of the Saddam regime will mean the collapse of the Gulf security equation.

The war launched by the Saddam regime was one of the links in the theory: It aimed to overthrow or to weaken the Islamic revolution. In the face of such an aggressive theory the Islamic Republic, after the war broke out, called for peaceful coexistence within the framework of Islamic brotherhood and without any military balances and polarization of the conflict. We do not know why some Gulf leaders still maintain principles that were created by Americans who were inspired by the conflict between the Eastern and Western camps. Can peace be established on the side of war?

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Herat Military Airport

LD101347 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The Afghan mujahidin launched a missile attack on the military airport of Herat on February 13.

According to reports from the London-based agency AFGHAN PRESS a helicopter at the runway was destroyed by a missile in the attack and two oil tankers blasted.

No report of casualties in the base have been received.